This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (New) A fluid compressor comprising a housing defining an internal bore and an outlet registering with the bore; at least one head communicating with the bore and adapted to receive the fluid; a plurality of inlet valve assemblies disposed in the head and angularly spaced around the central axis of the bore for permitting the flow of the fluid from the head and into the bore and for preventing the flow of the fluid from the bore to the one head; and at least one piston/valve unit mounted in the bore for reciprocal movement and adapted to move in one direction to draw the fluid through the series of valve assemblies and into the bore and to move in the opposite direction to compress the fluid in the bore.

Claim 30 (New) The compressor of claim 29 wherein the fluid passes from the head, through the series of valve assemblies, and into the bore.

Claim 31 (New) The compressor of claim 30 wherein each inlet valve assembly normally prevents fluid flow and responds to a predetermined fluid pressure acting on it to permit the fluid to pass though it.

Claim 32 (New) The compressor of claim 29 wherein, during movement of the piston/valve unit in the one direction, the valve assemblies permit the flow of fluid from the head to the bore, and during movement of the piston/valve unit in the other direction, the valve assemblies prevent the flow of fluid from the bore to the head.

Claim 33 (New) The compressor of claim 29 wherein the axis of each valve assembly extends at an angle to the central axis of the bore.

Claim 34 (New) The compressor of claim 29 wherein a plurality of angularly-spaced inlet chambers are formed in the head and are adapted to receive the fluid, and wherein the valve assemblies are mounted in the respective inlet chambers.

Claim 35 (New) The compressor of claim 34 wherein the chambers are interconnected in the interior of the head to permit the fluid to flow between the chambers.

Claim 36 (New) The compressor of claim 34 wherein the chambers are angularly spaced around the central axis of the bore.

Claim 37 (New) The compressor of claim 29 wherein the compressed fluid flows through the piston/valve unit before passing to the outlet.

Claim 38 (New) The compressor of claim 29 further comprising a rod mounted for reciprocal movement in the bore and wherein the piston/valve unit is attached to the rod.

Claim 39 (New) The compressor of claim 29 wherein there are at least three valve assemblies disposed in each head and equiangularly spaced around the bore.

Claim 40 (New) The compressor of claim 29 wherein there are five valve assemblies disposed in each head and equiangularly spaced around the bore.

Claim 41 (New) A fluid compressor comprising a housing defining an internal bore and an outlet registering with the bore; at least one head communicating with the bore and adapted to receive the fluid; a plurality of inlet valve assemblies disposed in the head and angularly spaced around the central axis of the bore for permitting the flow of the fluid from the head and into the bore and for preventing the flow of the fluid from the bore to the one head; and means mounted in the bore for reciprocal movement and adapted to move in one direction to draw the fluid through the valve assemblies and into the bore and to move in the opposite direction to compress the fluid in the bore.

Claim 42 (New) The compressor of claim 41 wherein the fluid passes from the head, through the valve assemblies, and into the bore.

Claim 43 (New) The compressor of claim 41 wherein each valve assembly normally prevents fluid and responds to a predetermined fluid pressure acting on it to permit the fluid to pass though it.

Claim 44 (New) The compressor of claim 41 wherein, during movement of the means in the one direction, the valve assemblies permit the flow of fluid from the head to the bore, and during movement of the means in the other direction, the valve assemblies prevent the flow of fluid from the bore to the head.

Claim 45 (New) The compressor of claim 41 wherein the axis of each valve assembly extends at an angle to the central axis of the bore.

Claim 46 (New) The compressor of claim 41 wherein a plurality of angularly-spaced inlet chambers are formed in the head and are adapted to receive the fluid, and wherein the inlet valve assemblies are mounted in the respective inlet chambers.

Claim 47 (New) The compressor of claim 46 wherein the chambers are interconnected in the interior of the head to permit the fluid to flow between the chambers.

Claim 48 (New) The compressor of claim 46 wherein the chambers are angularly spaced around the central axis of the bore.

Claim 49 (New) The compressor of claim 41 wherein the compressed fluid flows through the means before passing to the outlet.

Claim 50 (New) The compressor of claim 41 further comprising a rod mounted for reciprocal movement in the bore and wherein the means is attached to the rod.

Claim 51 (New) The compressor of claim 41 wherein there are at least three valve assemblies disposed in the head and equiangularly spaced around the bore.

Claim 52 (New) The compressor of claim 41 wherein there are five valve assemblies disposed in the head and equiangularly spaced around the bore.

Claim 53 (New) The compressor of claim 41 wherein the means comprises a piston/valve unit.